ILLEGIB

SECRET

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF PETROPAVLOVSK AND ITS ENVIRONS

Declassification review by NIMA/DOD

GP/I - 203

6 August 1956

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

SECRET

PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF PETROPAVLOVSK
AND ITS ENVIRONS

This memorandum is based on a study of oblique aerial photography flown between ███████████████████ The quality of the photography ranges from poor to good. Coverage of the area under consideration was fairly complete, but inland cover is limited owing to the obliquity of the photography. The area considered for detailed study lies within a 50-mile radius of the city of PETROPAVLOVSK (53°01'N - 158°39'E).

A request for a photographic analysis of the road from UST'BOLSHERETSK (52°45'N - 156°14'E) to PETROPAVLOVSK could not be complied with because of the unavailability of aerial photography covering that area.

A general description of the PETROPAVLOVSK area, including the coasts to the north and south of AVACHA BAY, and a detailed analysis of three specific areas within the given 50-mile radius of PETROPAVLOVSK are given. Three photomosaics and a location map are furnished as inclosures 1 through 4.

General Description

The terrain in the vicinity of PETROPAVLOVSK is volcanic in nature, characterized by sharp peaks and ridges and without any orderly arrangement. PETROPAVLOVSK is situated on the north shore of AVACHA BAY, which is generally circular in form and approximately 9 to 12 miles in diameter. Two streams discharge

25X1D

into the bay on the north and west sides, draining the high mountain ranges that surround the bay. The shore between these streams is low and marshy and dissected by several smaller streams. The AVACHA RIVER to the north appears to be marshy for as much as 20 to 25 miles inland. The remaining bay shore rises into low wooded hills with some cultivation on the slopes immediately behind PETROPAVLOVSK. The woods consist of broadleaf trees, which tend to become sparse near the tops of the hills but which would probably afford adequate concealment for careful movement.

The coast south of AVACHA BAY is characterized by a series of high bluffs and deeply indented bays. The valleys are narrow and rise sharply into rugged terrain. Vegetation on the eroded slopes is sparse, but the valleys appear to be swampy. Photography taken in the winter shows the slopes as well as the valleys to be entirely snow covered with no trees apparent.

Northward from the entrance of AVACHA BAY, the coast, except for two bluffs near the entrance, is a continuous beach for approximately 35 miles. This beach is backed by a belt of low sand ridges with scattered vegetation, which is mostly brush. Behind these ridges is a low plain that is hemmed in on three sides by high rugged mountains. The beach is dissected by three streams, the largest of which is the NALYCHEVA RIVER near the northern end. The vegetation on the plain that backs the beach ridges consists mainly of low brush; much of the area appears to
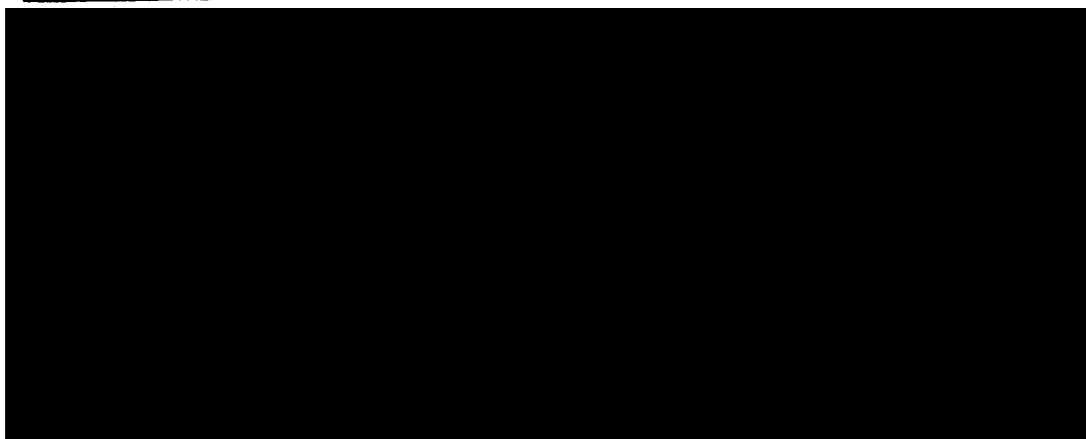
2

be very marshy. The vegetation on the slopes surrounding this
area also is scattered low brush.

The area around PETROPAVLOVSK has been divided into three
parts for the purpose of a detailed study. The limits of these
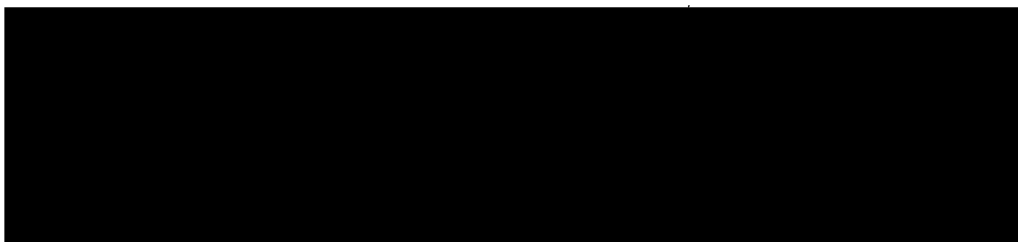areas are shown on enclosure 1.

The South Coastal Area

25X1D

The North Interior Area

The north interior area is the plain northwest of PETROPAVLOVSK,
bounded by mountain ranges on all sides except the south. The AVACHA
RIVER forms the southern boundary.

25X1D

The North Coastal Area

The north coastal area extends northward from the entrance to AVACHA BAY to the NALYCHEVA RIVER. The beach is approximately 35 miles long and averages 300 feet wide.

25X1C

25X1C

A village is located at the mouth of the NALYCHEVA RIVER. This village is on the coastal road, but no trails or roads inland are visible. A building camp or site is located approximately 5 miles northwest of the village. Southward along the coastal road there are other groups of buildings, and a small town is located 5.5 miles east of PETROPAVLOVSK.